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**Rutherford County
Government**

Press Release

Golden LEAF Seeks Rutherford Projects to Fund

Workshop Scheduled this Month

Rutherfordton, NC, August 14, 2015: Through its Community Based Grantsmaking Initiative (CBGI), the Golden LEAF Foundation seeks to provide assistance for projects in the Western Prosperity Zone of North Carolina, which includes Rutherford County, that support the building blocks of economic development. The Foundation seeks to fund those programs and initiatives that most closely align with its mission and priorities. Governmental entities and 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organizations that serve the people of North Carolina are eligible to request funding from Golden LEAF.

The goals for FY 2016 include the following:

- Providing for clearly identified priorities/solving needs at local level
- Awarding significant grants per county (up to \$1.5 million) for those with competitive projects
- Targeting counties that are the most in need
- Promoting economic growth and development in long term
- Doing the most good for the most people

Per the Golden LEAF grant requirements, only project ideas that are endorsed by the County Manager will receive consideration. Per Rutherford County Manager Steve Garrison, *"I will serve as the key contact of the process, in terms of responsibility for submitting a slate of projects that are ready to go. Projects do not have to be administered by Rutherford County government. This is a focused process with grants targeted toward investments in the building blocks of economic growth. A Golden LEAF goal is that the project does the most good for the most people."* Grants are limited to projects that address economic development, education, workforce development, infrastructure, health care infrastructure and agriculture.

Rutherford County governmental entities and 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organizations interested in submitting a Letter of Intent to apply are invited to attend an information session at the Rutherford County Administration (Annex) building located at 289 N. Main Street in Rutherford County on Monday, August 31, 2015, beginning at 6:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.goldenleaf.org.